

Church News.

ADDITIONAL.

THREE LETTERS FROM BROTHER MOOMAW.

[To a very dear friend whose feet almost touched the threshold of the door into "Our Father's House."]

Dear Friend:—Life, to be complete must pass through all the intervening stages. The beginning of it all is to begin. Of course you understand that I speak of the real, true life, the life of the soul, the eternal life. I do not speak of this present breathing spell, this ephemeral, vapory, shadowy, flitting of our house of clay in the sunbeam of time.

The life that is beyond Jordan's emblematic, swelling tide is the real, tangible life. At our late meeting you caught glimpses of its beauties and glories. You heard, by the mystic agency of faith, the sounds of harmony swelling up from a million harps voicing angelic joy as the door of grace swung open, at the touch of the fingers of the converts who entered at our Savior's invitation.

You were "almost persuaded" that it was not all an iridescent dream, a fleeting fancy of the ardent imagination of indiscreet youth.

Your heart responded to the sweetest invitation that ever touched mortal ear, yet your feet refused to do their office to "stand up for Jesus." The first step on the way to reach the goal of the bright hereafter is to make the prodigal's confession, "I have sinned," and "I will arise and go to my Father." All who have ever gone on the highway to heaven have begun in this manner. How easy, how natural, how just, how necessary.

The "still small voice" whispers, "now is the accepted time."

Will you respond to the divine sentiment and begin the warfare that has absolute assurance of ultimate and glorious victory.

There will be no rest or peace till the work is begun. The experience of all who have ever lived or ever will live attest its truth. From ten thousand pulpits, from every page of the Holy Book, from every dying pillow, from every battling warrior on life's tented field, comes the testimony that there is no rest or peace away from God.

Shall this avail to induce you to begin the new and better life? Or shall this testify against you when the judgment is begun? Remember, "whosoever will may come." Come now. The patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the Father, "Our Lord," his saints of all ages and degrees, the pulpits, all conspire to swell the blessed invitation. The only nega-

tion, the only discordant sound comes from Satan's malevolent heart. Who shall win? Oh, what an awful question. Upon its answer hangs your eternal destiny. What shall the answer be? You alone can determine.

God grant that your answer may bring joy to the friends whose prayers go up daily for you and to the angels "who rejoice more over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine who need no repentance."

[To a dear sister whose two daughters, only children, were converted and whose husband was relaimed.]

Dear Sister:—According to God's promises no person can be happier than you are. Your labor of love, your prayers for the divine blessing on your house, your faith in the word of the Lord, have been blest with an abundant reward. In the earliest dawn of life's fresh morning, your little daughters have chosen the dear Lord, whom you have long and faithfully served, and your many prayers for converting grace in their behalf have been so speedily answered. Could a loving Father have been more tender in dealing with you and yours?

Your work, however, is not done. A new field of labor opens before you. The little lambs are surrounded by ravenous wolves from Satan's forest, and they thirst for innocent blood. Pitfalls are thick, wherein the little feet walk, and snares unseen and innumerable are all about them. A wicked world will offer bewitching allurements and often the unsuspecting dart will pierce their tender hearts.

As a mother, your high commission is to shield them, and warn and instruct them. Point out the pitfall, show them the snare, warn them of the poisonous dart. Show them the example of patience, faith, prayer, reading the word of the Lord, humbleness, of mind. Don't forget that they have not reached woman's estate. Bear with their youthful indiscretions, and lead them gently up the "hills of difficulties," that they meet with in their pilgrimage. Your mission is one of great glory if you perform it as becometh a mother in Israel.

The restoration of your husband to fellowship with us is another illustration of the power of a faithful wife's prayer, and now no house should be happier than yours. All are of one mind, and all hearts beat as one. You can now more than ever walk hand in hand together and be helpful in the delightful work of leading the little children on toward the gates of pearl. How happy such a consummation. God be praised for bringing such a blessing to your house. We do not cease

to make mention of you in our prayers, and humbly ask your fraternal remembrance when you appear before the throne. May our loving Father preserve you all to his coming and kingdom.

[To three little brothers who came to the Lord for salvation ere sin had filled their young hearts, with wounds.]

Dear Brothers:—In assurance of God's blessing as an antidote to the evils of a godless world, you acted wisely in accepting the gracious invitation to "come unto Christ," at the earliest call. The part you have chosen is the wisest and best, and the paths in which you now walk, show the footprints of God's people in all ages past. There is but one guarantee of the divine favor, and but one shield against sin, and that you have secured in accepting Christ as your mentor and guide.

Young men of your day are the especial victims of Satan's enticing arts. Worldly pleasures are very seductive to the young and the advice of St. Paul to his young son Timothy to "flee youthful lusts," is pre-eminently my advice to all our young brothers.

Dancing, drinking, card-playing and sensuality are the peculiar temptations that you will have to resist if you will continue in the narrow path. Once you give place to worldly and fashionable amusements and sins, and Satan will fill your hearts and minds with everything that God hates, and the light of the spiritual life will go out in thick darkness.

Be an example of purity in conversation, patience in temptation, sobriety in all things, and avoid all sinful association. Do not let sinners entice you, but rather seek the company of persons who love God. Devote your Sundays to religious service, and reading the scriptures, and evening and morning commit yourselves by prayer to the divine protection. Avoid foolish jesting, and vain and light conversation. "In malice be children, but in wisdom be men."

Converse on serious topics with God-fearing people and devote your leisure moments in intimate association with your mother. None are nearer to her heart than you and none are more frequently mentioned in her prayers. Let each succeeding day find you stronger in faith and in the power of resistance of sin and more manly in development of Christian virtues.

By leading such lives you will draw your associates to the beautiful paths of peace, and ultimately you will "be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Roanoke, Va.